AN HUMBLE

PETITION

FROM THE

October-Club

TO A CERTAIN

Eminent M—r of the *H. of C—s*

CONCERNING THE

TRIENNIAL BILL

DUBLIN:

Re-printed, and Sold by *Thomas Humes*, over-against the *Bible*, on the lower End of *Cork-Hill*. 1716.

To a Certain M---r of the *H. of C---s*: The Petition of the *October-Club*, concerning the *Triennial Bill*.

HUMBLY SHEWETH,

THAT the ſaid *Club* conſiſteth of a great Number of Perſons who are conſpicuous for Birth, Fortune, Learning, Religion and Loyalty; and who, having a juſt Eſteem for the worthy Character which *your Honour* bears, preſume to offer to you their joint conſiderations, in reſpect of prolonging the *Triennial*

Firſt, The ſaid Society cannot but remind your Honour, that a great Number of the Clergy of *England* (for whom they have the greateſt Deference imaginable) will be offended, if this *Bill* paſſes; it being manifeſt, that the preſent Parliament (to which they are generally averſe) will ſo fix themſelves, and their Intereſt, and ſo ſettle all Publick Matters to their own Minds, (tho' never ſo diſagreeable to the ſaid Clergy) that all their Preaching to the contrary being likely to prove vain; they will grow ſullen and ſilent as to *State Affairs*, their Congregations will cool; and, for ought we know, the dull Explication of the *Church-Catechiſm* may come to be in Faſhion again, whereby their Audience will be obliged to Sleep, and diſhonour God's Holy Service, and wherein that damnable Doctrine of *Predeſtination* is manifeſtly maintain'd; nay, the *Creed* and *Ten Commandments* may henceforward as often be preach'd away as Liberty and *Magna Charta* have hitherto been. Now that

that the Paſſions of the *Britiſh* Congregations may be ſtill kept warm (which will be of great Uſe to the Church) we deſire that this *diſcouraging Bill* may not paſs.

Secondly, The Phyſicians of our *Society*, (who are honeſt and not blood-thirſty Men) petition your Honour againſt this *Bill*, humbly conceiving that it will be utterly deſtructive of the State of *Health* in this Nation; and foretelling, from certain Indications, that if it does paſs this *Spring*, we ſhall have a very ſickly Summer and Autumn after it, which they infallibly conclude from all the Pulſes they have felt. And being loath to trouble you with too much Learning in their Way, in order to diſcourage and terrify you from ſo pernicious an Undertaking, have thought fit to ſpecify a few Diſtempers only that this new *Bill* will certainly produce, moſt whereof will prove *mortal*:

Palpitation of the Heart in all Sexes of their Acquaintance, Vapours in Women, Hypocondriac in Men, Tremblings on the Nerves, Meagrim, Deſpair, Madneſs, Hanging, too great an Humour of Abſtemiouſneſs and Faſting, to the known Detriment of florid Humours and the total Decay of Health; to which we might add Foot-Padding, thin Garment, bad Diet, and Poverty, to the infallible Increaſe of all the Articles of the Bills of Mortality. Now that Health, Mirth and good Fortune, may attend all the Members of this Society, and all their Friends, and that their Enemies may have Agues and many other Evils brought upon them, to the Encreaſe of Fees to theſe Phyſicians (who otherways viſit *Gratis*) and are in Danger of catching the ſaid Diſtempers too, they humbly crave that this *Bill* may not paſs.

Thirdly, The Common-Lawyers of the CLUB, with great Heat and Earneſtneſs, moſt *legally* lay this their Petition at your Honour's Feet in Diſfavour of this Bill, wiſely conceiving that it will prevent many a *Scire Facias* and *Replevin*, and utterly ſtop a Current in their Proceedings, and conſequently contribute to a great Diminution and Ceſſation of *Fees* in this Kingdom.

Firſt, Your Honours are ſo protected, and your Judicial Servants ſo ſcreen'd under you, that there is no

ming at you for an old Debt, or a new broken Head, or any other illegal Practice; which, were you out of that Houſe, would cauſe your removing to another, which pays them very good Rent, whenever Parliaments are diſcontinued or diſſolv'd.

Secondly, If this Bill does not paſs, we are likely to have great Diſturbances at next Elections; fraudulent Conveyances are to be made to qualify Members to Sit; Bonds are to be artfully drawn on the ſame Occaſion, whereby the *Condition of the above Obligation* will bring in much Profit to them, and all the Appendixes of the Law for Three Years together.

Thirdly, The *Pretender* will be diſappointed, and thoſe who were againſt him will now keep their Eſtates, which otherwiſe would be forfeited; ſo that reverſing of Outlawries, proving Titles, or finding them out, Deeds of Conveyance, *Purchaſe* and *Sale*, will be of no Uſe, where-the Lawyers will be ſtarv'd, and the Laws by being in the Condition they now are, bring in no additio- gain to the Profeſſors of it. In ſhort, Aſſault, Blood- and Battery, Forfeiture, Alienation, the Payment t Debts, or the contracting unjuſt ones, Barretry, y, Perjury, Fighting, Thieving, Stealing, Rebel- rinking, Defamation and Swearing, will be at , or not thought on at all during this Term of whereby the noble Science of Defence, (called w) will very much ſuffer, and the Maſters of it Lawyers) be reduced to talk Divinity, and live on *initial* Pudding in *Chancery-Lane*; and, for ought I w, the *Temple* and Inns of Court be a Nurſery of ts, Ballad-Singers, or Highway-men, all which they the good of the Publick) ſubmit to your Honour, bly Praying that this *Bill* may not paſs, that we may e a little Wrangling and Forſwearing, Drunkenneſs Poverty, Rebellion and Forfeiture, for the Good of Society of the *Long-Robe*, and your Petitioners will any Thing, *even Pray*.

Fourthly, This CLUB hopes that your Honour will rea- approve of what they humbly conceive, that the *ncery-Men*, who have the Conſcience of the Kingdom eepin,g have to object againſt this Bill; who being

nice

nice Caſuiſts, Men of tender Taſte and Diſtinguiſhment, muſt conclude that the Chevalier de *St. George* will have great Wrong done him by paſſing this Bill; for it being perfectly known that this preſent Parliament are his *ſworn* Enemies, and reſolved to do him all the ill Offices they can, if theſe are continued for Three Years longer than was expected, may they not have contrived Matters ſo by that Time, that he may never come to the Crown at all; and may you not probably keep Men out who would appear in the next Parliament, either inclin'd to give him fair Play, and try his Title, or, it may be, wou'd in plain Terms, directly bring him in. Pray then Gentlemen, Where's the Equity and Conſcience of this? Is not RIGHT of ſo Divine a Nature, and ſo ſtrictly to be adher'd to, that you ought to run all Hazards for it; that you ſhould diſſolve your Parliament, break your Army, betray your Allies, ruine your Trade, ſuffer a Civil War, let in Popery, and rejoyce to be Slaves.

Fifthly, The *Chancery-Men*, who build all upon Conſcience, think that this Bill will not only do Injuſtice to the Crown, but to the Subject; who, at Three Years End, will ſuffer hereby both in their Bodies and Fortunes. Hoſpitality, Charity, good Fellowſhip and Mirth, will be prorogued Three Years longer than uſual through the whole Kingdom. Thouſands of People whoſe ſleek Countenance and good Appearance depends Daily and Annually on Triennial Elections, will be reduced to Labour and Leanneſs, and we, who on this very Footing Out-Grigg'd and out-laugh'd the *French*, ſhall become as ſerious and dejected, as, for ought I know, ſome of themſelves will be, if this *Bill* paſſes.

Beſides, it's plainly known what an Acceſſion of Wealth the Triennial Elections brought to the Freeholders and Conſtables, to the Mayors and Miniſters of Corporations, and others; all which will be loſt by this Means; the Parſon's Daughter will want a Portion, the Mayor's Lady be deprived of a new Silver Tea-Pot; and the Merchants and Traders of the Kingdom broken by theſe Peoples being kept from that Money which they Triennially receiv'd; and, we muſt add, That many a Chriſtian Creditor, who has advanced vaſt Sums at 250 *per*

Cent againſt the next Election, are alſo to be defrauaded of their Gain; and if your Honours wont ſupport this Publick-ſpirited Set of People we don't know what to think of you: Upon which Head we can't but inform you of a common Injury which ye will do the Kingdom by paſſing this *Bill*; which (at this Time of general Debt and Poverty) ye in Conſcience ought not to do; that is, ye will hinder vaſt Sums of Money from being ſent here from *France* and *Rome*, and other Places Abroad, and the diſperſing and Circulation of other vaſt Sums of Domeſtick-Money, which will be rais'd and expended againſt the next Elections at Home. This they, who underſtand Conſcience, tell ye you ſhould not ſuffer, and that the *little* Objections of Rioting and Drunkenneſs, Bribery or Debauchery, or, ſuppoſing ſome Scuffles, and a lettle Sedition and Rebellion, are of no Moment in ſo important a Caſe: Some Inconveniencies ariſe from every Humane Affair, and ye muſt not avoid a greater Good for leſſer Evils. Nay, what if ſome Familes ſhould be ruin'd by the Expences of the next Election? yet what matter? if it be for the good of the Church; and if Atheiſts and Sinners, Republicans and Sciſmaticks, be kept out, and Church-Men and Monarchy-Men be brought in? Beſides which, if ſome of the next Members be even ruin'd and broke by Elections; won't they ſee the Town get good Breeding and Manners, and Parliamentary Knowledge for their Money; won't their Daughters become Faſhionable, and their Wives Modiſh. Theſe, Gentleman, are what your Equity-Men call valuable Conſiderations; and therefore, if your Honours will throw out this *Bill* you will do conſciouſly, *and your Petitioners will ever pray.*

We have an Apothecary in the CLUB who oppoſes this *Bill*, as ruining one great Article of his Practice and Income, and that is the Application of Gliſters; tho' he does not know but it will enhaunce other Branches of his Trade. We have Two diſcarded Generals, Three Colonels, a Major, a Captain, and a Subaltern, who ſwear they are out of Hopes now, and will go and ſerve the *Turk*; ſo Gentlemen conſider how the Chriſtian Religion will ſuffer. We have an outed Juſtice of the Peace

who for want of *Affidavit-Money* can't pay his Reckoning, and entreat you to consider him for the CLUB's Sake. We have a Mercer on *Ludgate-Hill*, who affirms, that the passing this *Bill* will encourage the *East-India* Trade, and is a direct Breach of all the *Ten Commandments*. In short, we have but one *Neuter* amongst us, which is a Sailor, who swears too, that he has Money enough to buy Punch and Tobacco as long as he lives, and he don't care which way it goes; and but one Member *for it*, which is a *Schoolmaster*, who rejoyces that he shall no longer be obliged to teach the Boy's *Hicks*'s Catechism, and *Sacheverell*'s Rudiments: Those, and all other good Designs for the Church and Monarchy, being now to no Purpose, since the Favourers of these won't be chosen any more; so poor Man, he's resolv'd to spend his Days in his Birchen Grove with *Virgil* and *Terence*, not being yet debar'd the Privilege of watering his Plants well at Night.

As we were going to close our Petition, an eminent Physician came in, who was a famous Weekly Author in the late Reign, and having perused what we had done, desired to add, that your Honour should consider, that a Parliament has no such Power now; it might indeed have pass'd with some Success when the Church flourish'd, and both were *Jure Divino*, but what is transacted during Usurpation, and Persecution, is null and void in it self, and of no Use *ipso Facto*; affirming, that a Prolongation of the Life and Parliament of the last Monarch had compleated our Happiness, but now that *Ho———y* is made a Bishop, and Things go as they do, it will prove our lasting Misery and Ruin.

The Doctor is a Person of good Intelligence, and desires humbly to offer to your Honour, That the passing this *Bill* will utterly also discourage every Allie you have, and oblige them to disconcert or disunite from you. The *Dutch*, he affirms, say now, That you are so changeable and fickle, that there is no tampering with you, or depending upon you; for, if you are not true to your own Laws, what Confidence is to be expected from you? What, say they, so fond of Change,

as

as to make Three Years Seven? Why, they'll be ſ weary of one another, that they'll diſſolve themſelve in half the Time, and then where's our Herring-Trade and Cod-fiſhing? He adds, that the Emperor will ne ver truſt us, whilſt the Church is in Danger, whic being aſſured to be ſo now, by Thouſands who hav lately gone from hence, he humbly offers to your Ho nour, in order to gain him, to diſſolve directly, inſtead of continuing this Parliament. And as to your Selves and the State of the Kingdom, he wonders at this, o any other Innovation, now in Defence, or for the pre tended good of it, which at preſent enjoys a profound Security and Calm; and, pleaſe your Honour, he aſ ſures you there is no Occaſion for it. Faction's broke Rebellion's dead, Foreign Enemies quit, thoſe at Home defeated and diſpers'd. And he begs Leave to in form your Honour, that there appears in all Corpora tions and Publick Societies, a new Face of Things, a Satisfaction and Tranquility; and, we can aſſure you, that his Integrity is ſuch, that you may believe him; particularly, ſince General *Peppar* reduced *Oxford*, he can ſatisfy all Mankind, that they have nicely kept their Proteſtations and Vows made to that Gentleman, and e entirely won by the good Nature and Clemency of his Majeſty; they never drink or declare for the *Preten der*, or entertain one factious Thought in all their Heads.

Laſtly, We all entreat your Honour to uſe your Inter reſt with the H——e, that this *Bill* may not paſs, for the good of our CLUB, which if we are ſuffer'd to toaſt, the *Triennial* are orginally to be diſſolv'd, and are never to Meet, Converſe, Plot, Drink, Sing or SPEAK within theſe Walls any more. Hoping, laſtly, that your Honour will, in Gratitude, reckon our Arguments of ſome Weight, who have firſt publiſhed our PETI TION, in order to prevent your being troubled with o ther Impertinencies of the ſame Sort; which if you do, *your Petitioners will ever Pray.*

FINIS.